

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MEMORANDUM & MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2008 @ 9:00 A.M.

Those Present:	County Commissioners:	Thomas E Wilson	Eric E Roberts	Donald M VonderMeulen
	County Auditor:	Susan A Jones		
	Commissioners Secretary:	Carol Westerman		

Tom Wilson opens the meeting in the 1st Floor Conference Room with the Pledge of Allegiance.

WEEKLY

REPORT Susan Jones, Auditor reported that values for 2008 taxes were certified to the State DLGF this past Thursday. Sharon Halcomb, Assessor reported her office is working on information for 2008 pay 2009 taxes.

NEXUS CONTRACT

2008 pay 2009 taxes

ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS

Sharon Halcomb, Assessor presented a Contract for Annual Adjustments & Related Services with Nexus Group, Inc. in the amount of \$32,500.00 for 2008 pay 2009 taxes. This is a \$1,000.00 increase over last years, and would be paid for out of Reassessment Funds.

Eric Roberts moved to sign contract with Nexus Group, Inc. for the Assessor. Tom Wilson seconds the motion. Don VonderMeulen, All in favor. Motion carried.

LIBRARY

DISTRICT

Melody Gault, Director of the Whitewater Public Library came before the Board of Commissioners requesting the Board to make the Library District a County Wide Library. The Library District consists of Brookville, Posey, Laurel, Metamora, with Blooming Grove and Fairfield Township joining this past year. We have contacted Bath, Highland, Springfield, and Whitewater Townships to join, they feel it is not necessary to join. Ray Township is with the Batesville Library District. We had 280 people walk out of the Library last year, because they did not want to pay for a card, had 37 that did pay for a card that do not live in the library district. If you vote for a County Wide Library, we could do a reciprocal burrowing agreement with Batesville Library and Ray could use both libraries. Melody introduced Jim Corridan, Jennifer Beach and Jacob Speer of the State Indiana Library Association, supporting a County Wide Library. Along with Lowell McMillin, Attorney for the Library Board, who also lives in Whitewater Township, who stated that this would tie the community together and would have people stay in town to use the library and to do more local purchasing. Jim Suhre, presenting FCN Bank also supports the County Wide Library. Don Dunaway is also in support of a County Wide Library.

Tom Wilson asked what the process would be. Melody replied, it’s the matter of the Board of Commissioners agreeing, she would take it to her Board, they have also agreed. Eric asked what the tax rate would be. It would be (.10) ten cents per \$100.00 assessed. Eric asked if everyone joins would it provide enough funds to build another Library in the eastern part of the County. Melody said yes, that is her goal. Also asked when Blooming Grove and Fairfield joined, did the tax rate go down. No, over half of our budget was cut, the rate went up. The rate is determined on levy and state wide growth. Eric would like to talk to the Trustees.

Don VonderMeulen made motion to support Melody and making a County Wide Library. Tom Wilson seconds the motion. Eric Roberts, All in favor. Motion carried.

PAINTING OF

COURTHOUSE

Pat Combs, Member of the Library Board referenced the Painting of the Courthouse that is in the Commissioners/Council Public Meeting Room that the painting had been donated by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Runyon in Memory of their son, to the Whitewater Library District. The painting is on loan to the County, it is still owned by the Library District.

VFW

BUILDING SITE

Don Dunaway, Ed Baker and John Estridge members of the Franklin County Cemetery Commission were present with facts regarding the Infirmary Cemetery a/k/a Poor Farm/Asylum Cemetery. Which lies near the site in which the VFW wants to put their new building on Blue Creek Road. The Cemetery was established in 1815 and has (10) stones. The size of the cemetery is unknown and is non-active. The current (2008) size of the Cemetery appears to be 105 feet long (north to south) and 45 feet wide (east to west), there appears to be a woven wire fence that remains on the western side of the cemetery incorporated in the tree line. Based on records and past history, believe that all of these people are buried in the Old Stringer Cemetery: Elizabeth Fuller 1844, Martha J Hannah 1818, Thomas Henderson 1834, Andrew Jackson 1837, John Marsh 1893, Fielding Stewart (Civil War Soldier, Harriet Stinger 1844, Wiles Stinger 1815 and Eli Stinger (date not established). The Infirmary Cemetery is on land that was owned by Stinger family. We believe that the Infirmary Cemetery is located west and south of the Current Cemetery and may contain as many as (135) remains. We believe that when the Infirmary needed space to bury an individual that had died at the Asylum, they would have buried them outside the Old Stinger Cemetery, to the west or south, as the river is on the eastern side. According to Rifle’s History: “Poor Asylum” land and buildings were purchased in 1856 and a Children’s Home was added during the year 1882, these facilities were operated through the 1950’s. They have researched records from (5) sources. 1) Stinger Cemetery, 2) Newspaper Records 1951 – 1904, 3) Court House Records 1907 – 1957, 4) Indiana WPA Records 1882 – 1920, 5) St. Michael’s Records. Based on these records and other reports we believe there are at least (135) individuals buried in the area west and south of the current marked cemetery or the area that has been surveyed for the location of the building and parking area for the proposed VFW plans.

The Cemetery Board suggests the following: Employ the services of a certified Archaeologist to complete extensive core sampling of the grounds to verify that there are no burials in the area that the VFW is requesting for the building or the parking area. Complete the research of documentations at the Courthouse and/or other areas. Determine the number of people buried in the Infirmary Cemetery, the area that was available in (1850) to be used for burial, how many graves can be located by “Witching” and their location, and determine the size of the Infirmary Cemetery. One these statistics are available, agree as to the location of the Infirmary Cemetery and “if” the applicant still wants to build near this location, install a “White Vinyl Fence” to offset the cemetery to prevent vehicles from driving across or parking on the graves. These costs should also be paid by the applicant.

Don VonderMeulen asked if an archaeological survey (core sampling) is done, what would be the best route to pursue. A letter was received from DNR to do this survey and would need approval from DHPA/DNR to whatever process would be done.

Gary Seale said witching graves is a farst and what about the tombstone that was moved from the County Park. Joe Gillespie, County Surveyor, surveyed the boundaries and received letter from DNR giving approval for the 50 foot setback. Ed Baker, the tombstone moved, was a civil war soldier. He was buried in the Infirmary Cemetery, bur for some reason the stone was put on top of the fairgrounds hill. It was moved back to the Infirmary Cemetery. Don VonderMeulen asked Gary Seale if they are willing to pursue. Gary Seale said we already wasted \$1,000's of dollars. Wants to know, one way or another if the County will sell the property. Don VonderMeulen said, based on what he has heard, could not go along with allowing a building to be built there. Tom Wilson said he is not against the VFW building a new building, but don't want it built on a cemetery either, if there are graves there. Eric Roberts agrees, records show at least 63 people buried there.

Don VonderMeulen made motion to not allow construction on this piece of ground. Eric Roberts seconds. Tom Wilson, All in favor. Motion carried.

BATESVILLE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT

Randy Jobst, Plant Manager of the Batesville Wastewater Treatment Plant has concerns with the weight limit that had been posted on Mid Road Bridge 71, he can't get his trucks to the plant. Do the Commissioners have any other suggestions, Underpass Road Bridge is too low to go under. Ripley County put a 6 Ton Load Limit on Crossover Road. The box truck semi that delivers is over the weight limit, we receive (3) loads a month.

George Hartman, Highway Engineer presented (3) different options that could be used to replace Bridge 71. 1) Replace the existing bridge with a new structure would cost approximately \$220,000.00 2) replacing the deck with a steel grid decking \$28,195.04, but foundations are need of replacing 3) replacing the structure with 2 railroad tank shell cars costing \$20,000.00. Eric and Tom both suggested the railroad tank shell cars if funds are available. Eric will look over Cum Bridge Funds.

CIC ADVERTISEMENT
INVOICES

Jim Surhe, Member of the CIC Committee presented invoices for advertising of CIC Meeting in the amount of \$584.55 (IN Media Group \$409.50 and Connersville News Examiner \$175.05). Needing guidance for budget and there will be more expenses, need direction. It was suggested maybe they could get donations, this could be set up as a Restricted Donation Account for CIC to be used strictly for CIC Advertisement and Supplies in working on the Zoning Text. The Commissioners said they would take care of paying the (2) invoices submitted as this time.

HIGHWAY ENGINEER
WEEKLY REPORT

SNOW HILL COVERED BRIDGE 102 – George Hartman, Highway Engineer reported they he has spoken to Kevin Loiselle with Clark-Dietz/Farrar Garvey & Associates with regards to the February 11, 2008 meeting. Based on estimates provided by Kevin \$376,500.00 will be needed, above what we have for Bridge 102. Funds in the form of Grants from National Historic Covered Preservation Program are available, applications are due April 25th. Right-of-Way would need to be acquired early next year for the project.

BLUE CREEK ROAD BRIDGE 55 – George also reported he had talked to Greg Morgan of Morgan Canoe Rental with concerns of the log jam or debris that had collected under Bridge 55. He had told Mr. Morgan that he had provided photo's to the Commissioners and to Brian DeFossett, District II Foreman and that a site meeting was held to discuss the method and time of removal.

SIGN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – George reported that during the past week he had made several calls to Stello Products concerning the renewal of the contract for purchase of materials, Todd has been out of town and would be back in town on April 21st to forward the renewal contract for signatures. To date Bath and Fairfield Township Signs have been completed, Blooming Grove is ¾ complete. The signs for Laurel and Springfield road name signs have been received, but don't have enough stop and other information signs. Discussion on why it is taking so long to receive signs. A meeting was set to meet Monday, April 28th at 10:00 A.M. at the Highway Department with Todd of Stello Signs and Keith Bias with WTH.

STATE ROUTE 229 PROJECT – George had received word that the project had been canceled in September 2006. The Project was to make improvements from Haytown Hill Road to Salt Creek Bridge.

It was mentioned that the Economic Development Board has concerns with the conditions on State Road such as State Road 1, State Route 229, U.S. 52 at the slide area and State Road 252, the curves going out of town. John Estridge suggested talking to our Senator and Representatives.

COMMON WAGE
CONSTRUCTION
REPRESENTATIVE

The Commissioners need a Representative for the Common Wage Construction Hearing for the Mount Carmel School Addition. Larry Franzman will be their representative.

SECURITY CENTER
UPDATE

Dale Maxie, County Sheriff reported that the Air Conditioning Units have been installed and will be up and running this next week.

REX PIPELINE
APPEAL

Received a Notice of Decision to Issue a General Permit for the REX Pipeline Project from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Eric Roberts moved to file an Appeal (in regards to the Issuing of General Permit for the REX Project). Tom Wilson seconded. Don VonderMeulen, All in favor. Motion carried. (Gene will prepare Petition to Appeal).

TREASURER’S
REPORT Tom Wilson made motion to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Report for the month of March 2008. Don VonderMeulen seconded the motion. Eric Roberts, All in favor. Motion carried.

MINUTES Don VonderMeulen made motion to approve the minutes of April 14, 2008. Tom Wilson seconds the motion. Eric Roberts, All in favor. Motion carried.

PAYROLL Tom Wilson made motion to approve Payroll. Eric Roberts seconds the motion. Don VonderMeulen, All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURN Tom Wilson made motion to adjourn. Don VonderMeulen seconds the motion. Eric Roberts, All in favor. Motion carried.

Others Present:	Don Dunaway	John Estridge	R. E. Baker	Stanley Monroe
	Jim Suhre	Gary S Seal	Brian Campbell	Scott McDonough
	Pat Combs	Mary Alice Helms	Melody Gault	Jim Corridan
	Jennifer Beach	Jacob Speer	Lowell McMillin	Joe Gillespie
	George Hartman	Seth T Whitecotton	Mary Hon	

AYE

Thomas E Wilson

Eric E Roberts

Donald M VonderMeulen

NAY

Thomas E Wilson

Eric E Roberts

Donald M VonderMeulen

ATTEST: _____
Susan A Jones, Franklin County Auditor